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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO.

TOPIC VP in Prenzlau 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 17 June to 10 July 1953

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A DATE PREPARED 22 July 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

SOURCE 25X1X

1. From 17 to 20 June 1953, the VP unit in Prenzlau was on alert but furnished no troops to quell the rebellion in East Germany. On 21 and 22 June, the Ministry of the Interior gave an order to make ready for employment 50 trucks which had been jacked up. Source learned that a detail would be committed in Thuringia where, according to a legend issued by the unit headquarters parachutists, had landed. Each man of this detail was issued arms, ammunition and supply. The order for commitment was, however, withdrawn after a short period of time. ¹
2. During the period of observation, the VP unit in Prenzlau was subjected to extensive personnel changes. The actual strength of the unit was scheduled to be reduced by 30 percent. All VPs who were sick or were considered politically unreliable as well as those who had repeatedly been disciplined were scheduled to be dismissed. Between 70 and 80 officers and NCOs were expelled on charges of political unreliability or breach of discipline. These measures were allegedly taken in conjunction with a large purge affecting the entire KVP. A large number of personnel who had proved good soldiers also requested dismissal, causing the command to make every effort including all sorts of promises to retain these men. ²
3. Extensive transfers were under way at the VP unit in Prenzlau during the period of observation. About 350 personnel were transferred to Leipzig, Brandenburg, Potsdam, and Oranienburg and 26 officers were transferred to Leipzig prior to 10 July. ²
4. Source learned that a completely new table of organization was in preparation for the KVP, abolishing the designations of division, regiment and battalion, allegedly because they were also used with Western troops and, instead, introducing the designations of Bereitschaft, Kommando and Abteilung. Source stated that several small Bereitschaften (divisions) would soon be activated in Saxony and that part of the heavy and light arms equipment had already been loaded. ²

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25X1A¹. Comment. The information confirms the impression that the bulk of Armeegruppe Nord was alerted during the June rebellion but was not employed.

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- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. It is rather probable that the KVP may have purged elements who proved evidently unreliable or could no longer be tolerated for other reasons. The KVP division in Prenzlau had an actual strength of 15,000 men prior to the uprising in June. If this strength were reduced 30 percent, the division would have the approximate war strength of a Soviet motorized rifle division. It remains to be seen whether the 30 percent of the personnel will actually be dismissed. It is also possible that a large percentage of this personnel will be detached to units of Territorialverwaltungen Nos 3000 in Dresden, 6000 in Leipzig and 5000 in Schwerin and to units in Oranienburg, Potsdam and Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken subordinate directly to the Ministry of the Interior. It is also possible that, in addition to the division in Prenzlau, the divisions in Eggesin and Prora of Armeegruppe Nord will also have to make such detachments. Further information is needed to determine whether the redesignation into Bereitschaft, Kommando and Abteilung also included a structural change of the units involved or was made only to disguise the military character of the KVP. The new designations had already been used by the KVP until the spring of 1953 and were replaced by military designations such as division (Verband), regiment and battalion only after that date when the actual rearmament started.

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